

Date 4/12/04

To: The City of San Jose Coyote Valley Task Force

From: Harlan Warthen  
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Re: Coyote Valley Specific Plan

I believe that the first statement on The Coyote Valley Specific Plan Vision is critical to successful development.

"Vibrant self-contained urban town in North and Middle Coyote areas with efficient mix of land uses and pedestrian orientation based on smart growth principles and transit-oriented design."

The key word in this statement, when it comes to schools, is self-contained. Speaking as a resident of Morgan Hill and the Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) it will be impossible to develop any support from the South County when it comes to building schools in Coyote Valley. The projected population of 80,000+ will triple the current size of MHUSD with an approximate addition of 20 new grade schools, 4 Middle Schools and 2 High Schools.

Here are several facts that must be considered. Morgan Hill Unified School District is not capable of addressing the challenge of this unprecedented plan for the following reasons:

1. MHUSD is a rural district. Coyote Valley Development will make it predominately an urban district.
2. The contracts for the superintendent and her three assistants have not been renewed. All members of the senior staff will be replaced by June 2005.
3. MHUSD will have a new superintendent in less than one year whose number one priority will be reorganization of a failing district not building new schools.
4. There will be four new trustees elected in November (No incumbents are running)
5. The remaining three trustees have less than 18 months of experience.

Any attempt to pass a School Bond to build schools in San Jose will never be supported by the communities of Morgan Hill and San Martin. Since the passage of our a School Bond in June 2000 the last three construction projects are over plan by at least \$30,000,000.

I would recommend a November Ballad Measure to split Morgan Hill Unified School District and would be more than willing to serve on a sub-committee for this purpose.

If you are sincere about Coyote Valley being self-contained, this should be considered a priority item. Sobrato High School, Martin Murphy Middle School and Los Passas Elementary School already in the City of San Jose should be included in the split giving Coyote Valley the seeds of an entirely new Coyote Valley District or the area could be absorbed by Oak Grove or San Jose Unified.

The benefits to San Jose and Coyote Valley development would be immediate. The planning process, as it addresses school construction, would be smoother and more efficient. The initial tax base of Coyote Valley is already in place with Cisco, the Power Plant and other major land holders. Most important, a number of your consultants have already made this recommendation.

The timeline is critical. Thank you for your consideration.



Harlan Warthen